

**TITLE:**

Developing Communication Skills in Children with Autism Using Verbal Behavior ó Applied Behavior Analysis

**AUTHOR:**

Bc. Kateřina Chrápková

**DEPARTMENT:**

The Department of Special Education

**SUPERVISOR:**

doc. PaedDr. Jiřina Klenková, Ph.D.

**ABSTRACT:**

This thesis deals with the development of communication skills in children with autism using Verbal Behavior ó Applied Behavioral Analysis (VB-ABA). The aim of this work is to introduce VB-ABA approach as an effective intervention for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). It is a monographic work with emphasis on a theory. The empirical part consists of an evaluative single-case study.

The thesis is divided into six theoretical and one empirical chapter. The first theoretical chapter presents the issue of communication in a view of behaviorism and compares this approach with classical linguistics. The second chapter describes theories of language acquisition and language development from behavioral and linguistic perspective. The third chapter discusses the development of children's speech in the context of ontogeny and its functions. The fourth chapter deals with the issue of communication skills in the context of ASD. The fifth chapter introduces evidence based practice and provides information on current international research of interventions for persons with ASD. The last theoretical chapter is devoted to VB-ABA in the context of the field of Behavioral analysis. The empirical part contains the evaluative single-case study of a boy with Childhood Autism, whose early intensive behavioral program is based on the principles of VB-ABA. It is a comprehensive intervention, focusing on communication development during the seven-month intervention.

**KEYWORDS:**

Verbal Behavior ó Applied Behavioral Analysis (VB-ABA), Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Verbal Behavior, Communication, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Autism.